

Invasive Non-native Plant Species Course Outline

This new course is for ecology professionals and conservation volunteers who need to recognise the many plant species now listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, for which it is a criminal offence to cause to grow in the wild.

Which species will this course cover?

- All 40 species and their hybrids (which are also on schedule 9) will be covered at least with pictures and information about their UK distribution and ecology.
- You will produce your own short list of the species found in your area of Britain.
- During the afternoon identification workshop you will identify fresh or pressed specimens of about 20 of the more widespread species. This workshop will be differentiated by level of experience, so novices will work separately from experienced botanists. We will also discuss approaches to the difficult groups now on Schedule 9 that are widespread, like *Cotoneaster*. Any more is not feasible on a one-day course.
- Many courses on invasive species only cover common easy to identify plant species like Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, water fern, New Zealand pigmyweed, parrot's feather and Himalayan balsam. We are professional botanists so can cover far more.

Who is the course for?

This course is aimed at beginners with some basic experience of botany e.g. you know what a petal, sepal and a stamen is and have completed some plant identification on Phase 1 habitat surveys or similar.

Will we use keys?

Not unless you want to. Identification will be by using combinations of plant features, and by having a good look at specimens. If you use keys, please bring your book with you and you will get one-to-one help to key out species; but you will not need to use botanical keys to benefit from this course.

What about biosecurity – how will you ensure no species are accidentally spread in the wild as a result of the course?

The course is classroom based. We will not be visiting any field sites. The specimens used are either herbarium specimens or will be carefully collected and disposed of by burning at the end of the course. All participants will be reminded of biosecurity issues and any specimens taken away from the course will be pressed and therefore dead.

Does the course cover invasive species management & control techniques?

No. This is a separate issue and there is not time in a one-day course to go beyond species distribution, identification and ecology.

Want more information, dates & prices?

We run this course in May each year, at Kendal and at Newcastle. Please email us for details at enquiries@ptyxis.com

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